

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The Office Action dated September 21, 2004 has been thoroughly reviewed. Before entry of the present Amendment, Claims 1-46 were pending, with Claims 1 and 24 being in independent form. In the present Amendment, Claims 1, 3, 24, 26, and 36 are being amended, Claims 2 and 25 are being cancelled without prejudice, and Claims 47-50 are being added. After entry of the present Amendment, Claims 1, 3-24, and 26-50 will be pending, with Claims 1, 24, and 47-50 being in independent form.

In the September 21, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner objected to Claim 36 because it was incorrectly labeled "35" and was written to incorrectly depend from Claim 35. Claim 35 is being amended to read correctly in the present Amendment. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

In the September 21, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner objected to dependent Claims 2-10, 12-23, 25-33, and 35-46 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In the present Amendment, independent Claim 1 is being amended to recite the limitations of Claim 2, which is being canceled without prejudice. Similarly, independent Claim 24 is being amended to recite the limitations of Claim 25, which is also being canceled without prejudice. Because amended independent Claims 1 and 24 recite a combination of limitations which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable, it is believed that amended Claims 1 and 24 are in condition for allowance; thus, withdrawal of their rejection, and their subsequent allowance, is respectfully requested.

At least through their dependent on amended independent Claims 1 and 24, dependent Claims 3-23 and 26-46 are also believed to be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of their rejection, and their subsequent allowance, is also respectfully requested.

Newly added independent Claim 47 comprises the limitations in Claims 1 and 4. Because independent Claim 47 recites a combination of limitations which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable, it is believed that newly added independent Claim 47 is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Newly added independent Claim 48 comprises the limitations in Claims 1 and 9. Because independent Claim 48 recites a combination of limitations which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable, it is believed that newly added independent Claim 48 is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Newly added independent Claim 49 comprises the limitations in Claims 24 and 27. Because independent Claim 49 recites a combination of limitations which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable, it is believed that newly added independent Claim 49 is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

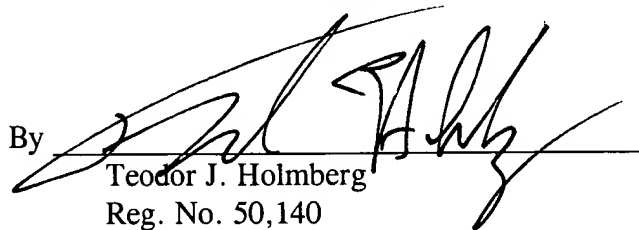
Newly added independent Claim 50 comprises the limitations in Claims 24 and 32. Because independent Claim 50 recites a combination of limitations which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable, it is believed that newly added independent Claim 50 is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

At least of the basis of the foregoing, allowance of all the presently pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

COHEN, PONTANI, LIEBERMAN & PAVANE

By



Teodor J. Holmberg

Reg. No. 50,140

551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1210

New York, New York 10176

(212) 687-2770

Dated: December 21, 2004